

Amendments to the Specification:

At page 32, please replace the first full paragraph with the following:

Referring to Fig. 53B, the device 300E may also provide cooling to a backside 353 of the ablating element 311. Fluid from the inlet lumen 344 passes across the backside 353 of the ablating element 311 and is removed on the other side through the lumen 320. The embodiment of Fig. 53B may include any of the features and advantages of the embodiment of Fig. ~~[[35]]~~53, for example, the fluid flow rate and temperature may be the same as described in relation to Fig. 53A. The inlet lumen 344 is also coupled to the suction well 310 via a conduit 355 for supplying fluid to the suction well 310. In this manner, the fluid may also be used to cool tissue adjacent to the ablating element 311. Fluid introduced into the suction well 310 is withdrawn through the lumen 320 in the manner described above. Although the fluid in the suction well 310 is exposed to the near surface NS of the tissue, the cooling fluid may also be contained within a closed circuit so that the near surface NS of the tissue is not in direct contact with the fluid. Furthermore, the fluid preferably cools tissue around the entire ablating element 311 but may also cool tissue only along one side of the device or only on the two lateral sides of the device without departing from the scope of the invention.